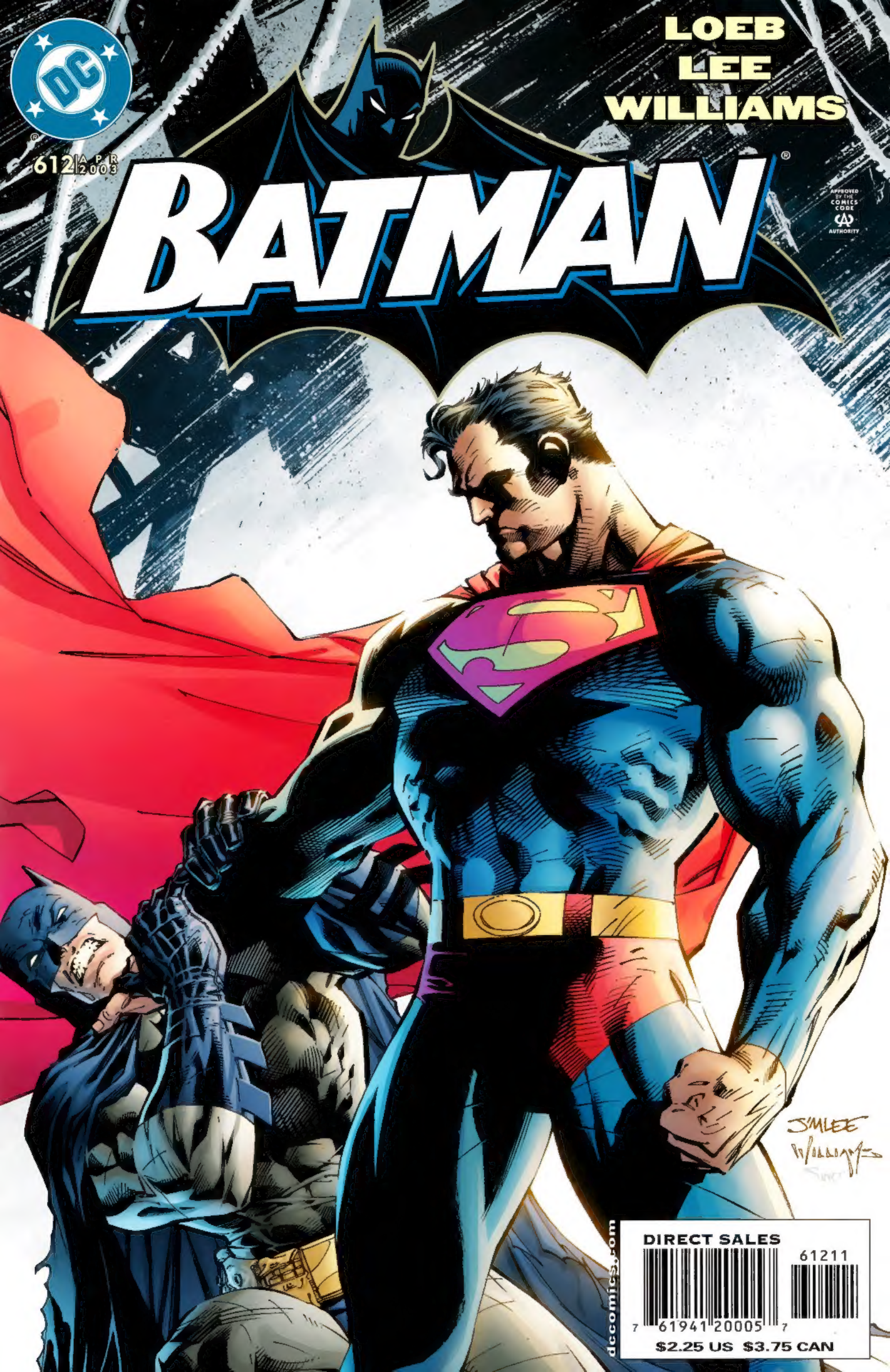
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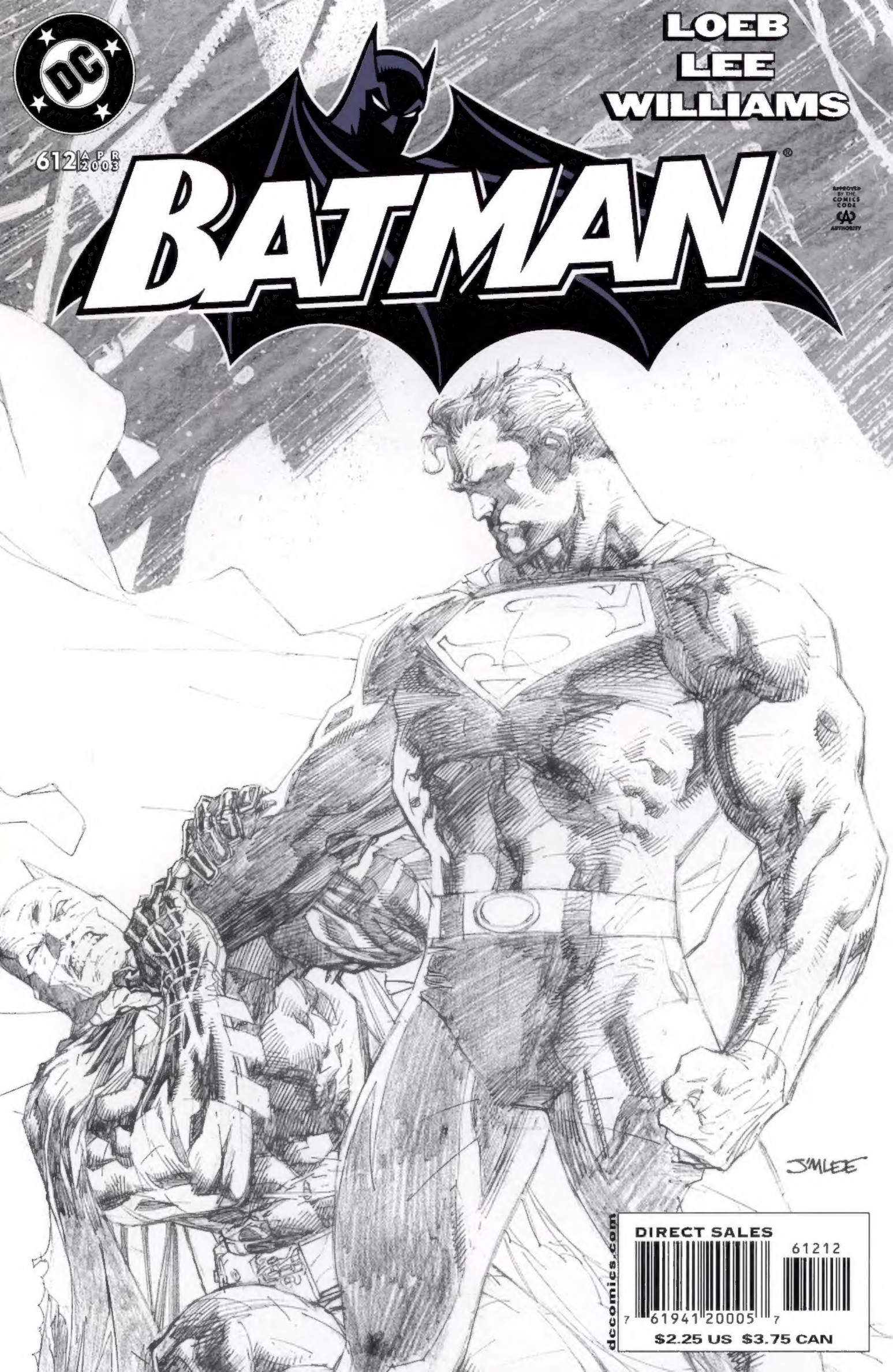
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Metropolis.
W-WHAT HIT US?
HE DID.
I hate this city.
We came hunting for Poison Ivy for crimes she committed in Gotham City.
She has taken control of Superman.
LOVER.
KILL THEM.
TELL ME YOU HAVE A PLAN.
If I know him -- and I do --
--I know what his next move will be.

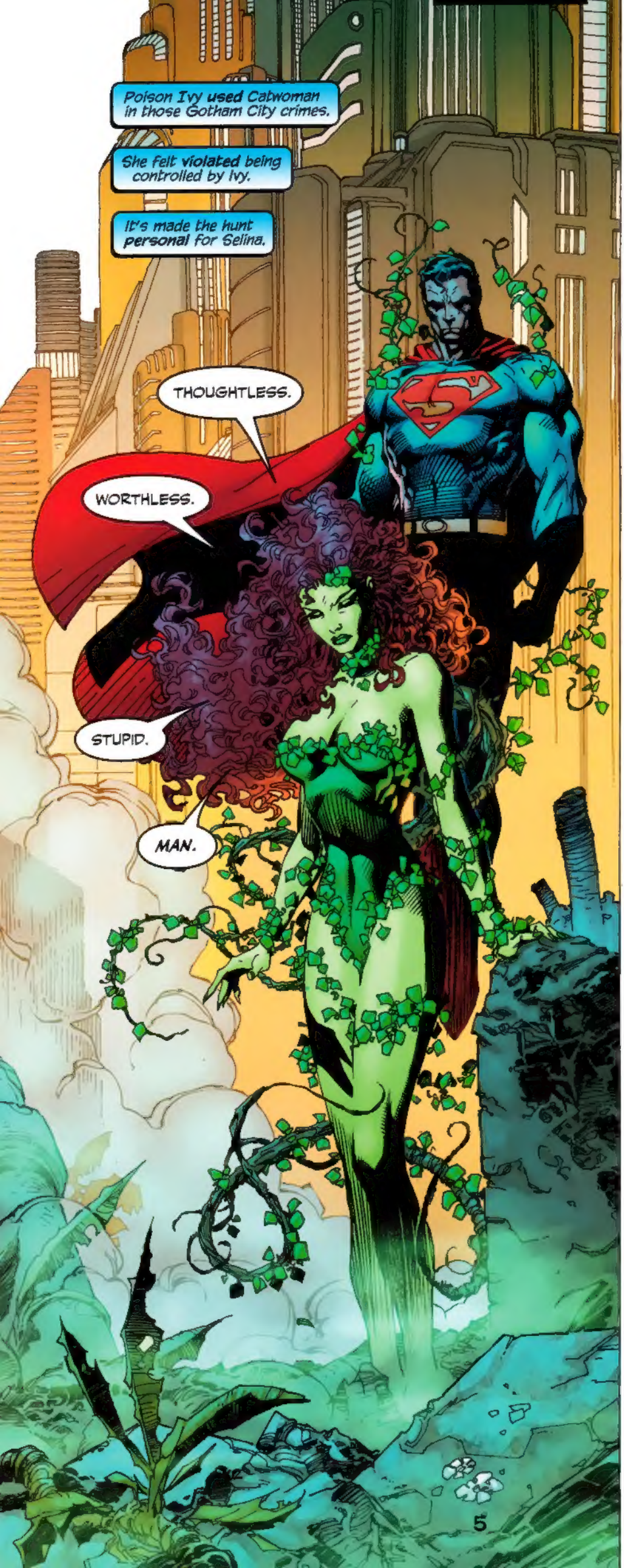
What he doesn't know is what my next move will be.
ZZRACK
DOWN!
Y'THINK?
WHAM
2

We've got seconds before he realizes we're not going to stand and fight.
ZZRACK
WHERE ARE WE GOING--?!
BA BOOM

SPLOOSH
Not yet, anyway.
3

THEY'RE GETTING AWAY..?
NO!

Selina is panicking. Cats and water.
She's going to have to trust me.
Nightvision Engaged.
I'm going to have to trust her.
WHRRRR
WHRRRR
NAVIGATING DISTANCE: 0.03 MILES
Given the situation it's at best a distraction...
...and at the worst, could get us killed.
WHOOSH
Seconds.

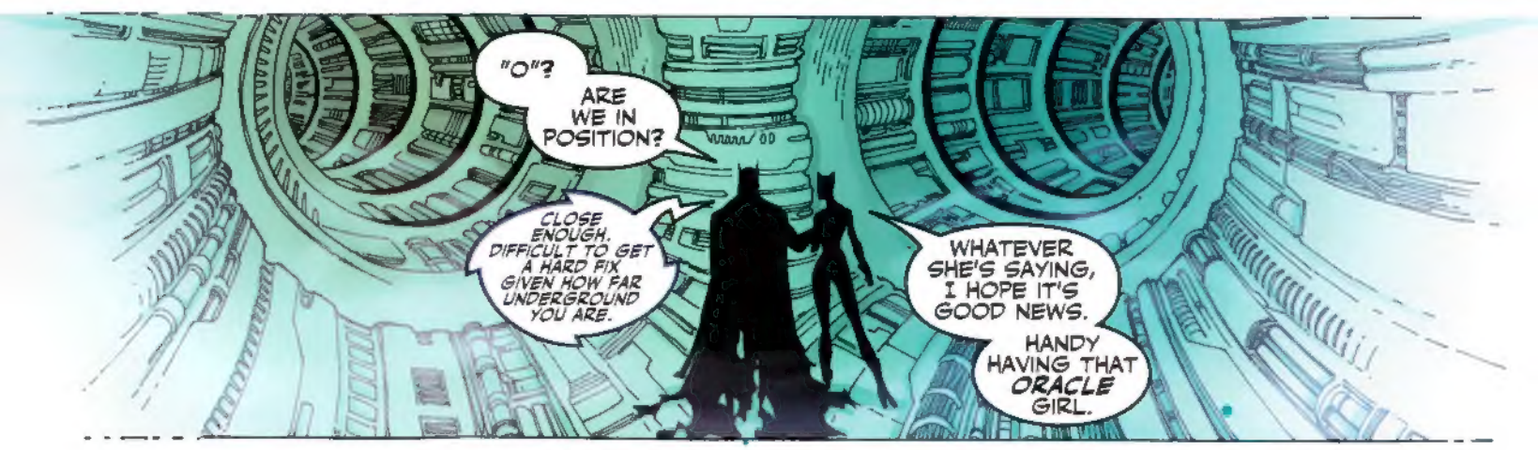

Poison Ivy used Catwoman in those Gotham City crimes.
She felt violated being controlled by Ivy.
It's made the hunt personal for Selina.
THOUGHTLESS.
WORTHLESS.
STUPID.
MAN.

I... CAN'T... KILL...
BUT, YOU ALREADY HAVE.
MY PLANTS ARE MY CHILDREN.
I...

ARE YOU STARTING TO RESIST?
FOOLISH.
NO MAN CAN RESIST ME.
EVEN SUPERMAN.

NOW, COME CLOSER--
-- SO, I CAN REMIND YOU WHAT WILL MAKE ME HAPPY...

And I... can't let Catwoman's desires impair my judgment.
Despite... what I may be feeling for her...
WE CAN'T OUTRUN HIM.
HE'S FASTER THAN A--
--WELL, Y'KNOW.
LEXCORP

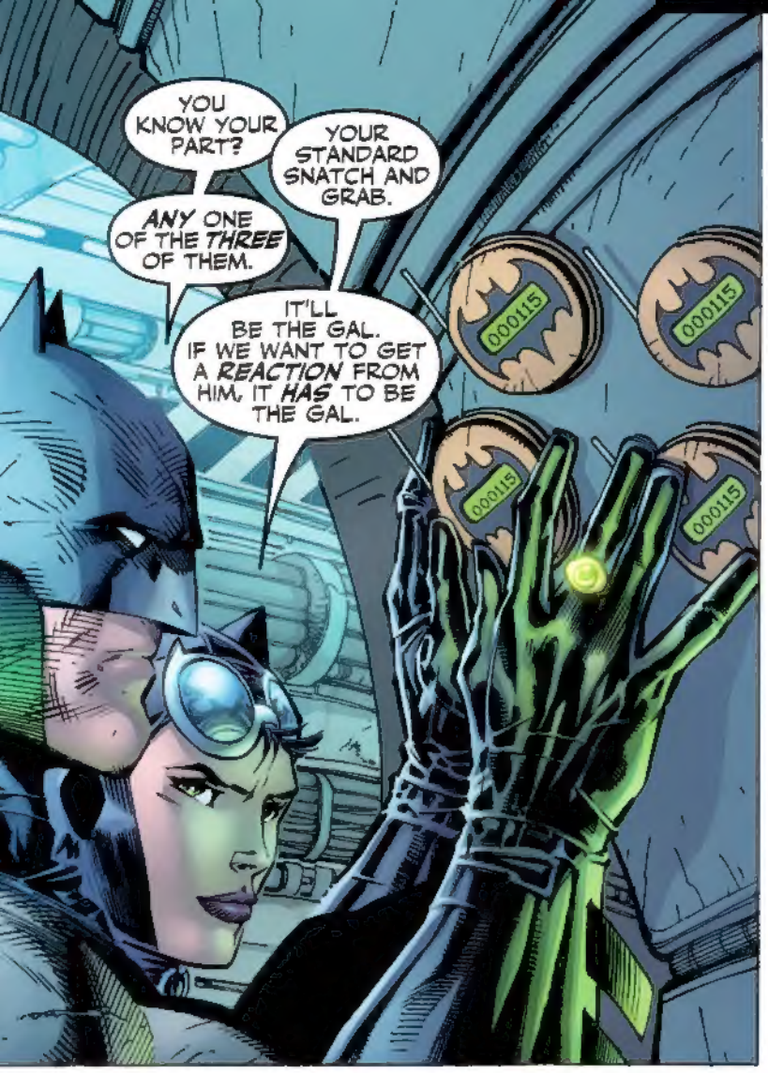

"O"? ARE WE IN POSITION?
CLOSE ENOUGH. DIFFICULT TO GET A HARD FIX GIVEN HOW FAR UNDERGROUND YOU ARE.
WHATEVER SHE'S SAYING, I HOPE IT'S GOOD NEWS.
HANDY HAVING THAT ORACLE GIRL.

THE PARASITE ONCE FOUGHT HIM AND USED THESE TUNNELS TO ESCAPE. A LEAD-LINED SEWER SYSTEM COURTESY OF LEXCORP.
HURRAY FOR LEX LUTHOR.
YOU'VE STUDIED SUPERMAN, HAVEN'T YOU?

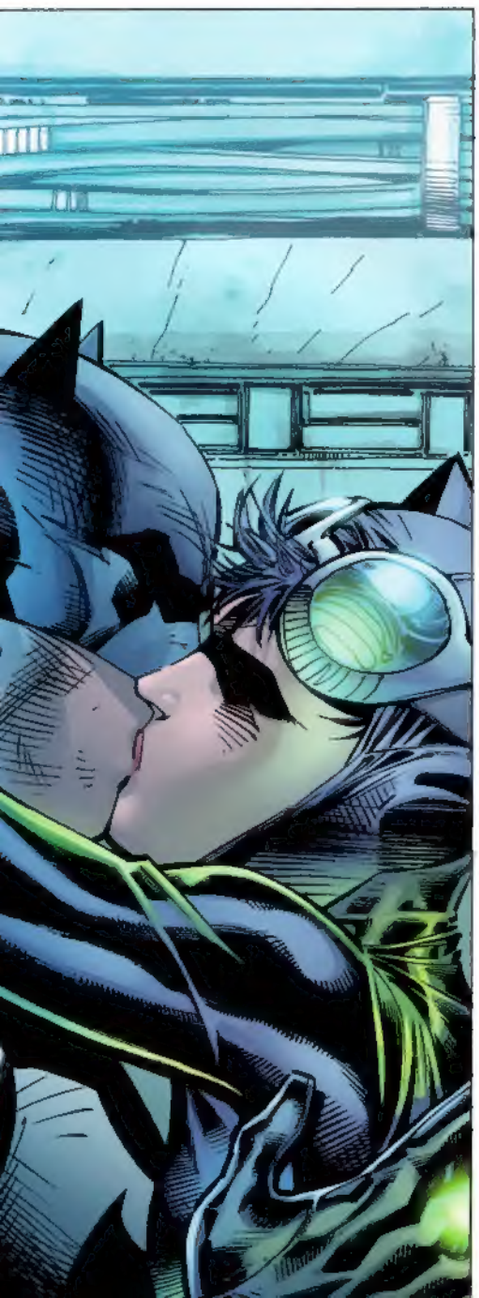
HE'S THE BEST AT WHAT HE DOES.

THAT'S OPEN TO DEBATE.
I SAID, HE'S THE BEST AT WHAT HE DOES.

I made a promise on the grave of my parents to rid this city of the evil that took their lives. By day, I am Bruce Wayne, billionaire philanthropist. At night, criminals, a cowardly and superstitious lot, call me...
BATMAN
CREATED BY BOB KANE
NOT AT WHAT I DO.
You don't come to Metropolis and not be prepared for him.
Jeph LOEB writes
Jim LEE pencils
Scott WILLIAMS inks
Richard STARKINGS letters
Alex SINCLAIR colors
Bob SCHRECK edits
Morgan DONTANVILLE assistant edits
special thanks to Mark CHIARELLO
HUSH
Chapter Five THE BATTLE


YOU KNOW YOUR PART?
YOUR STANDARD SNATCH AND GRAB.
ANY ONE OF THE THREE OF THEM.
IT'LL BE THE GAL. IF WE WANT TO GET A REACTION FROM HIM, IT HAS TO BE THE GAL.

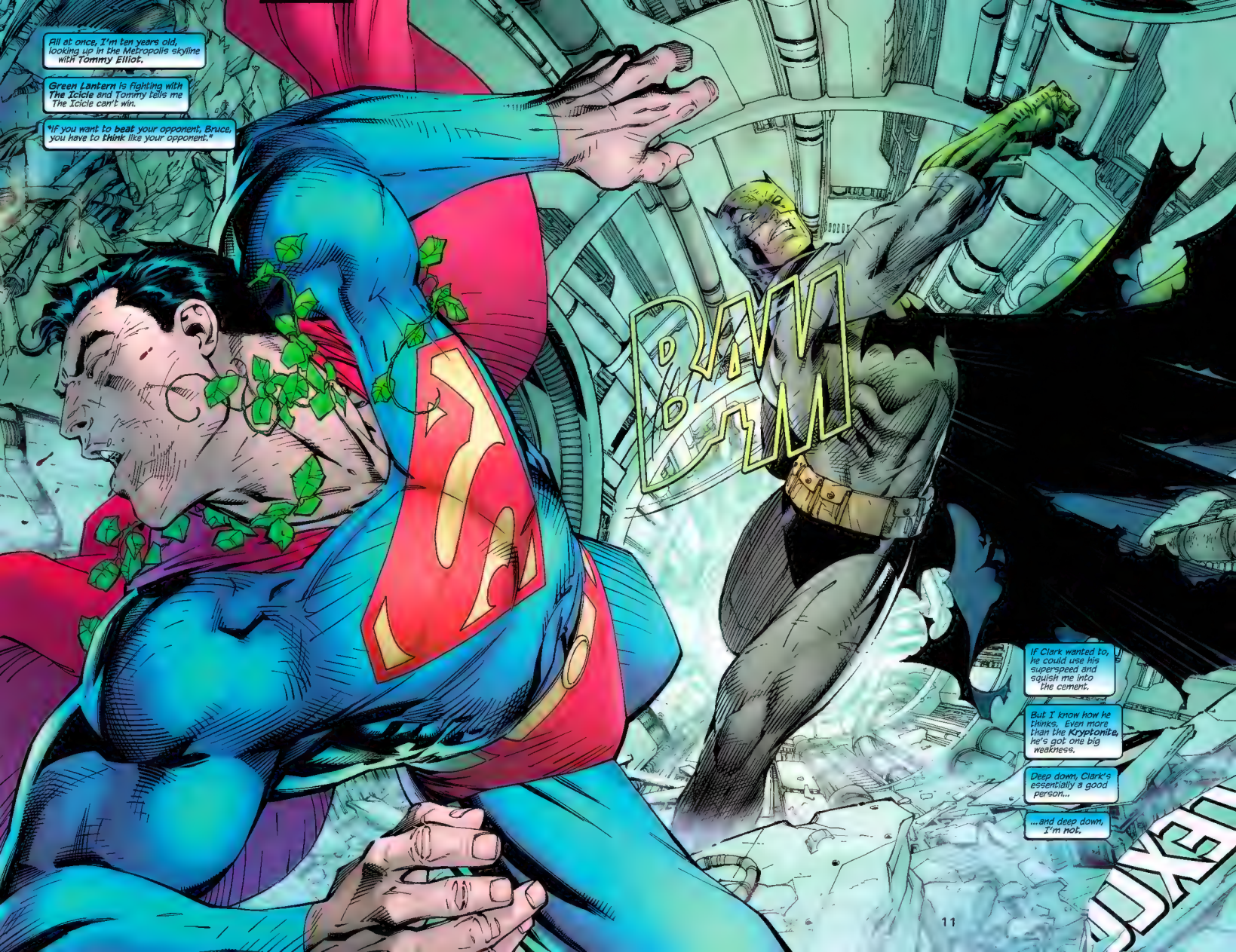
YOU'VE STUDIED HIM?
TRUST ME. I KNOW THE TYPE.



WHY DID YOU...?
BECAUSE, LATER...
...YOU MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO DO THAT.

THOOM
THOOM
THAT'S MY CUE.
GOOD LUCK.

I don't believe in luck.
KRAAASH
But if I did... now would be a good time to start.


All at once, I'm ten years old, looking up in the Metropolis skyline with Tommy Elliot.
Green Lantern is fighting with The Icicle and Tommy tells me The Icicle can't win.
"If you want to beat your opponent, Bruce, you have to think like your opponent."
BAM
BAM
If Clark wanted to, he could use his superspeed and squish me into the cement.
But I know how he thinks. Even more than the Kryptonite, he's got one big weakness.
Deep down, Clark's essentially a good person...
...and deep down, I'm not.

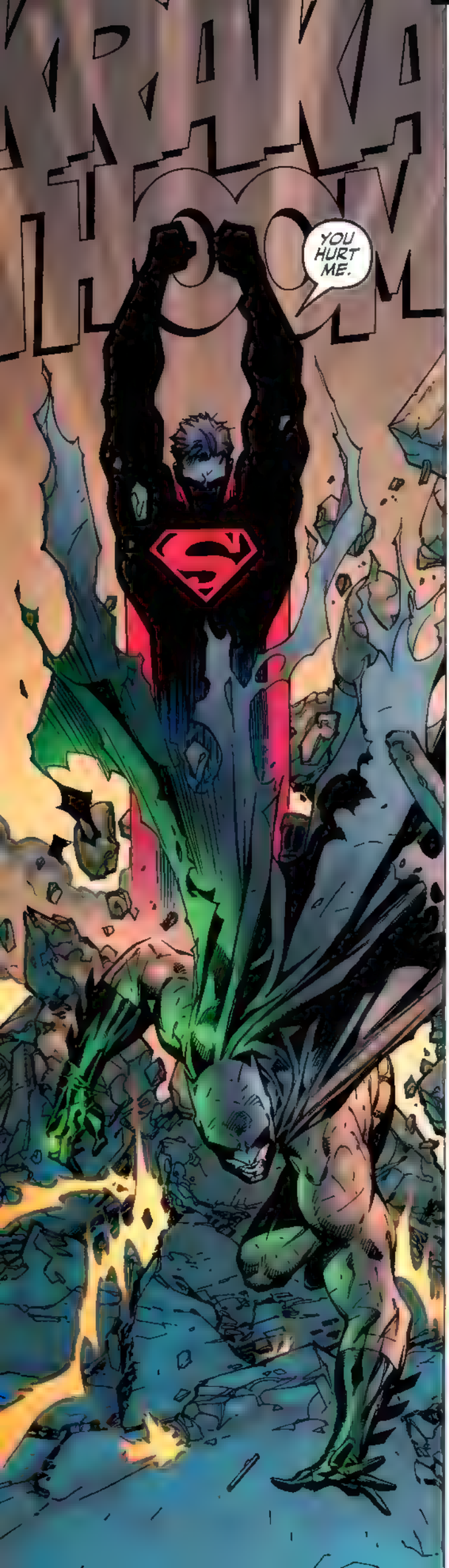
I have to keep him contained, so he can't fly.
I yell at him to keep him distracted.
LISTEN TO ME.
WHAM

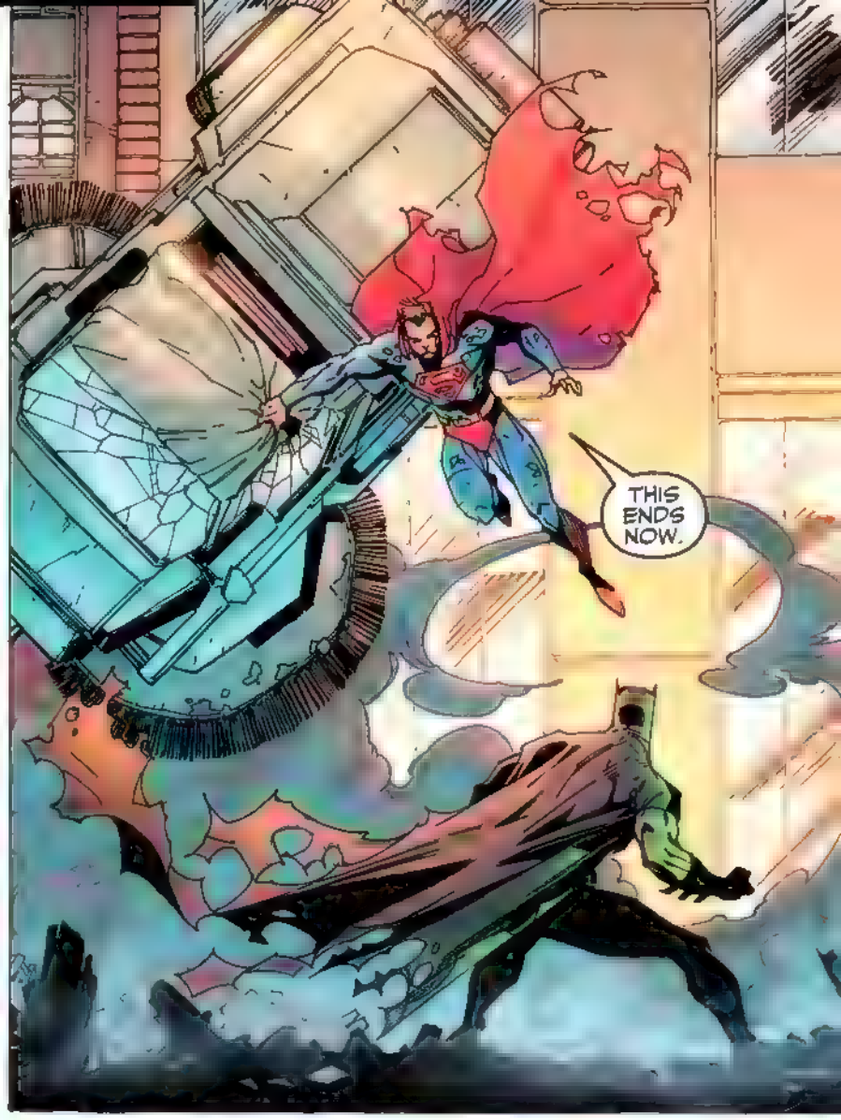
The Green K in the ring slows his reflexes.
I'VE OPENED A GAS MAIN. IF YOU SO MUCH AS MAKE A SPARK WITH YOUR HEAT VISION--
--YOU'LL BLOW UP THE ENTIRE BLOCK.
WAM

If I hit him again, I'll shatter every bone in my hand. The Kevlar only protects so much.
AND YOU KNOW WHAT BUILDING WE'RE UNDER.
BTAM

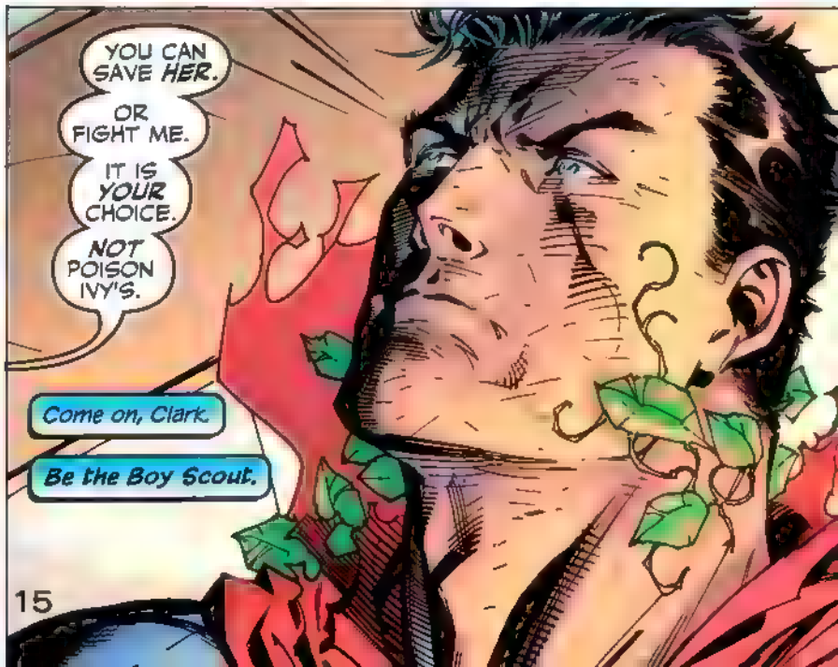
Time to switch to hypersonics.
I can't hear them -- but he -- and any dog in the surrounding area -- is going to have a splitting headache in the morning.
ENOUGH.
FWOOOSH
Arctic breath. He's holding back as much as he can...
...and I have to keep the pressure on.
POP
POP
POP
KLIK
Next. Blind him.
PHTOOSH
Now, it's all about timing.
Not easy to do when your opponent is faster than a... well, you know.
CLARK. ABOUT THE GAS MAIN--

--I LIED.
DANGER! HIGH VOLTAGE
GAAHHH!!
He can't be stopped. But he can be stunned.
ZZZZZZZKKK
Even if it takes his whole city to do it.
The backup relays have the city online in moments.
I only hope I've bought Catwoman enough time...
KRRK
VSSSs
14


YOU HURT ME.


THIS ENDS NOW.

LOOK UP.


YOU CAN SAVE HER.
OR FIGHT ME.
IT IS YOUR CHOICE.
NOT POISON IVY'S.
Come on, Clark.
Be the Boy Scout.

HOLD STILL!
Y'KNOW, YOU'RE NOT VERY GOOD AT THIS "DAMSEL IN DISTRESS" THING.
LET GO OF --
OOOMPH
WHMP
--MEEEEEEE
EEEEE
If we had to, Catwoman could catch her...

...but we don't have to.
I'VE GOT YOU.
HI, HONEY, YOU'RE HOME.
CLARK.
NO OFFENSE--
-- BUT YOU LOOK LIKE HELL.
He's the best at what he does...

I've been under Poison Ivy's spell myself. Even though you can't control it, you are aware of your actions.
I knew he would be fighting her while he was fighting me. It's probably why I still have a head attached to my shoulders.
But... if there were an innocent person in jeopardy. Real jeopardy.
He couldn't let Ivy stop him from that.
SO... YOU AND HE ARE WORKING TOGETHER NOW?
WHAT... ARE YOU WRITING A BOOK OR SOMETHING?
OR SOMETHING...
IVY WILL BE ON THE MOVE. SHE HAS MONEY AND A CERTAIN WAY WITH ANYONE WHO WOULD STOP HER.
AND SHE HAS HELP. SMART. CONNECTED.
SOMEONE WHO GOT HER THE SYNTHETIC GREEN K IN HER LIPSTICK TO BE ABLE TO CONTROL YOU.
ANY IDEAS ON WHO THAT MIGHT BE?
WORKING ON IT.
WE SHOULD HAVE A WORD OR TWO WITH IVY.
I'M NOT SURE EITHER ONE OF US COULD FIND HER IN TIME.
PLINK
BUT WE BOTH KNOW SOMEONE WHO CAN.
AND I THINK I HAVE A CHANGE OF CLOTHES UP AT THE FORTRESS, TOO...

The Metropolis Plaza. Tommy and I stayed here as kids.
PUT THE MONEY DOWN.
YOU'RE GOING BACK TO GOTHAM CITY.
LIKE HELL I--
--AM.
I'VE ALREADY CALLED MY OLD FRIEND MAGGIE SAWYER.
SHE'S ARRANGED FOR THE METROPOLIS S.C.U. TO DELIVER YOU TO THE G.C.P.D.
I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU FOUND ME, BUT --

Sometimes all the detective work in the world can't beat a super-dog with a keen sense of smell.
GHRRRR
RRR
HELLO, IVY.
DOK
GOOD-BYE, IVY.
CATWOMAN.
WAS THAT REALLY NECESSARY?
YES.

It is time to leave this city. But not before Clark has his say.
DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT IT, DOG.
HOW DID CATWOMAN KNOW TO PICK LOIS? YOU DIDN'T...
I ONLY TOLD HER THAT YOU CARE ABOUT THE PEOPLE WHO WORK AT THE DAILY PLANET.
SHE HAD THREE CHOICES. LOIS. JIMMY OLSEN. OR EVEN PERRY WHITE.
CATWOMAN PICKED LOIS.
YOU COULD HAVE GOTTEN LOIS KILLED.
NO.
I BELIEVED IN YOU.

ALL THE GOOD WORK.
INCLUDING THE J.L.A.
HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN?
WHY?
ALWAYS THE DETECTIVE.
EVER THE BOY SCOUT.
THANK YOU.
NOW, MORE THAN EVER, I KNOW I GAVE THE RING TO THE RIGHT PERSON.
WHAT ARE... FRIENDS FOR..?
WHAT ARE... FRIENDS FOR..?
HA HA HA HA HA

Next HARLEY QUINN

DC 02.03

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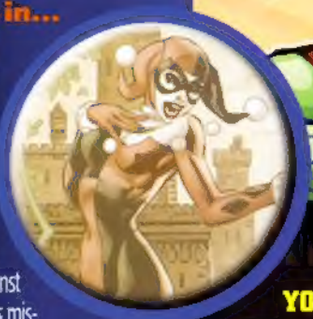
This Month's Cover by...
JIM LEE, SCOTT WILLIAMS, ALEX SINCLAIR

YOUNG JUSTICE/TITANS: GRADUATION DAY #1 (May 2003) The Titans and Young Justice engage in their first – and probably last – social mixer when a mysterious girl with unspeakable power takes down several members from each team. With even more carnage on the horizon, if the remaining heroes want to get ahead in life, they'll have to do the math and make a life-changing decision. Unfortunately, there's no multiple choice in this ultimate of tests, scripted by **Judd Winick** (who's ending his regular run on GREEN LANTERN), with art from the WildStorm school: **Alé Garza** (GEN[13]) and **Trevor Scott** (BLACK SUN). Hopefully, some of them will graduate to the new **TEEN TITANS** and **OUTSIDERS** monthlies this summer!

Next Month in...

Batman #613



One night at the opera...comes a clown. But with this clown, you only hurt when she laughs. It's time for Batman to take center stage and center ring against the might and flight of this mistress of distress, Harley Quinn!

The Hot List THIS MONTH

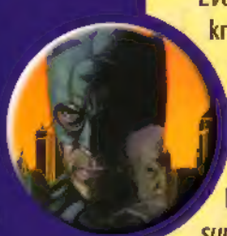
ACTION COMICS #800

Double-sized anniversary issue! A new look at how the Man of Steel came to don the red cape, and the person who inspired Clark to become a reporter.

H-E-R-O #1

Ordinary people, extraordinary powers! The mystical H-E-R-O device, which grants super-powers to its possessor, falls into the hands of a young man with nothing to lose. Will it give him a reason to live – or an excuse to die?

JSA: THE UNHOLY THREE #1



Part 1 of a 2-part Prestige Format miniseries! Eight years after the events of "The Liberty File," the Bat, the Clock and the brash young powerhouse named Clark Kent are back in action.

SUPERMAN: METROPOLIS #1

New 12-issue maxiseries from **Chuck Austen** and **Danijel Zezelj**. Follow Jimmy Olsen on the job in Metropolis where the Tech is once again gaining sentience and transforming the inhabitants of the City of Tomorrow.

A MIGHTY AFFAIR TO REMEMBER

Howard Chaykin does double duty for the first time in a while with a new hardcover project scheduled for sometime next fall. **MIGHTY LOVE** is *Sleepless in Seattle* with super-heroes, centering around two costumed crimefighters living the usual double lives. She's a crusading defense attorney and he's a hard-boiled cop. By day, they are natural adversaries and can't stand each other. But at night, as Skylark and Iron Angel, it's a very different story. As urban vigilantes, they see the streets from the same point of view, understand each other's problems, and just maybe… fall in love?

NEW 'GIRL IN TOWN

Everybody wants to know all about the new Supergirl who showed up in **SUPERMAN: THE TEN-CENT ADVENTURE**. Well, here's our *two* cents on the subject: she *might* be the daughter of Superman and Lois. Then again, we hear she's not quite like "Daddy" – after all, could he ever fire off *red sunbursts*?! **Seagle** and **McDaniel** unravel more of the mystery in **SUPERMAN #192-193!**

To get more of DC in Demand's Inside Scoop, go to www.dccomics.com/dcindemand right now!

ROAD TO PURR-DITION

Selina Kyle's been through several makeovers in recent years, though sources tell us they *all* pale in comparison to the drastic personal changes writer **Ed Brubaker** has awaiting her in the coming months. Starting with **CATWOMAN #17**, the scribe's three-part story arc promises to forever change the way you look at Selina and her friends, and not just because the storyline's guest artist is **Javier Pulido!** Keep a cat's eye out for this one in March.

"EMPIRE" STRIKES BACK

The time's *ripe* to start telling you about the top banana DC picked from the bunch that made up the late Gorilla Comics. We're talking about **EMPIRE**, **Mark Waid** and **Barry Kitson's** critically acclaimed futuristic account of Golgoth and his meteoric rise to global domination. And because we want everyone on the same page when Golgoth resumes his destiny in late summer, DC is publishing an Omnibus one month earlier that contains the two hard-to-find Gorilla issues. This way you can say you knew the evil monarch before he became famous!

– your MOLE at 1700

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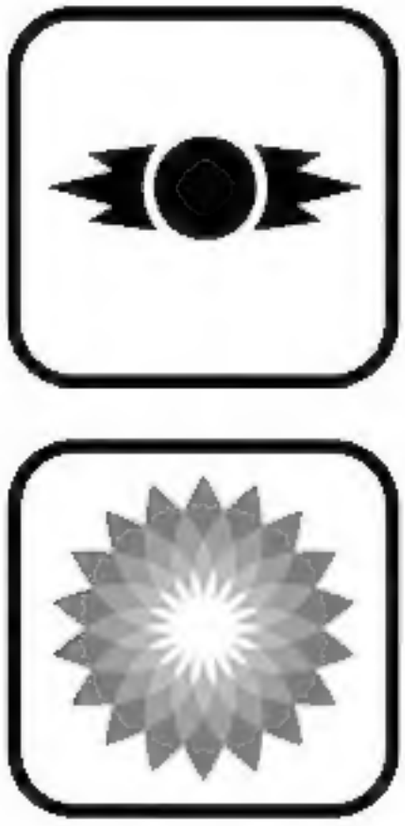

Special thanks to ScanDog for the variant cover!